

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/003,056

Examiner

Vincent E. Kovalick

Applicant(s)

MILLER-SMITH, RICHARD M.

Art Unit

2629

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to USPTO Final Office Action of 6/22/05, dtd 8/23/05 and Applicant's Appeal Brief dtd 1/3/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date 11/02/01 & 4/4/02
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is in response to Applicant's response to USPTO Final Office Action of June 22, 2005, dated August 23, 2005 and Applicant's Appeal Brief dated January 3, 2006.

In a review of the cited Prior Art in this case, and in considerations of Applicants remarks put forth in the said Appeal Brief, the Application is deemed allowable as indicated hereinbelow.

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-20 are allowed.

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:.

Relative to claims 1 and 12, the major difference between the teachings of the prior art of record (Easty et al. (USP 6,448,987); Sommers et al. (USP 5,940,076 and Cheng (USP 5,986,638) and that of the instant invention is that said prior art of record **does not teach** an image control system wherein a user input device for inputting an instruction from a user for selecting said menu items from the menu wherein the use input device comprises a control device to generate a control signal to move the loop and the selector relative to each other, the control device having a loop configuration, wherein movement around the loop configuration of the control device causes a corresponding relative angular movement that is substantially equal between the selector and the loop of the menu.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue

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fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Response to Applicant's Appeal Brief

4. Applicant's arguments put forth in said Appeal Brief dated January 3, 2005 are persuasive, application is allowed.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

U. S. Patent No.	6,448,987	Easty et al.
U. S. Patent No.	5,986,638	Cheng
U. S. Patent No.	5,940,076	Sommers et al.

Examiner's Note

6. Please note the change in Art Unit Number from 2677 to 2629. Where applicable, future correspondence should refer to AU 2629. Thank You.

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To Respond

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vincent E Kovalick whose telephone number is 571-272-7669. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 7:30- 4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin Shalwala can be reached on 571-272-7681. The fax phone number for the

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306 may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Vincent E. Kovalick
March 24, 2006



BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600